

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00069 270728Z

17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /065 W
----- 047073

R 240650Z JAN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1569

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0069

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJ: GOI CRACKDOWN ON SHIA COMMUNITY

REF: BAGHDAD 881 NOTAL

1. I HAVE HEARD FROM NUMEROUS SOURCES THAT GOI ORDERED SHIA COMMUNITY OF BAGHDAD (ESTIMATED AT OVER 50 PERCENT OF CITY'S POPULATION OF 2 MILLION) AND PERHAPS OF REST OF COUNTRY NOT TO CELEBRATE ASHOURA (TENTH DAY OF MOHARRAM) ON JAN 23 IN TRADITIONAL WAY; I.E., RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS FEATURING SELF-FLAGELLATION. USUAL DISPLAY OF COLORED SHIA FLAGS NOT SEEN THIS YEAR IN SHIA QUARTERS AND REPORTEDLY PROCESSIONS DID NOT TAKE PLACE. SECURITY FORCES AND BAATH CIVIL MILITIA WERE REPORTEDLY ON ALERT FOR DISTURBANCES BUT THEY DID NOT OCCUR.

2. COMMENT: REASON FOR GOI RESTRICTIONS MAY BE RELATED
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00069 270728Z

TO EARLIER TRIAL AND ALLEGED EXECUTION OF FIVE SHIAS

ACCUSED OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN COLLUSION WITH IRAN
(REFTEL.) WHATEVER THE REASONS, REGIME HAS ALMOST
CERTAINLY CAUSED MUCH DISCONTENT IN SHIA COMMUNITY WHO
TAKE THEIR ISLAM SERIOUSLY AND PARTICULARLY CELEBRATIONS
SUCH AS ASHOURA WHICH SET THEM APART FROM RULING SUNNIS.
LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL REPRESSION, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, HOLIDAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0316
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750124/aaaaavel.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BAGHDAD 881
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI CRACKDOWN ON SHIA COMMUNITY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006